

- any patent application processing fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.17, to Deposit Account No.

18-1171.

REMARKS

Claims 29-52 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-28 have been canceled.

Claims 29-52 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Applicant elects as species block copolymers of formula IA, wherein:

- R¹ is the group of formula -CH(COOEt)₂, which is an alkyl group (i) substituted with groups of formula -COOR, wherein R is an alkyl,

- a=0,

- Y is hydrogen,

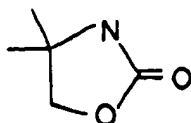
- Y' is phenyl, which is an aryl group,

- b=0,

- X is hydrogen,

- X' is the group of formula -COOEt, which is a group of formula CO₂R', wherein R' is an alkyl,

- Z is the group of formula:

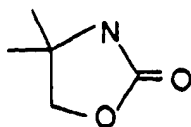


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Applicant submits that, as $a=0$ and $b=0$, electing V, V', W, and W' groups is moot.

Applicant elects as species the precursor of formula IIA, wherein:

- R¹ is the group of formula $-\text{CH}(\text{COOEt})_2$, which is an alkyl group (i) substituted with groups of formula $-\text{COOR}$, wherein R is an alkyl,
- $b=0$,
- X is hydrogen,
- X' is the group of formula $-\text{COOEt}$, which is a group of formula $\text{CO}_2\text{R}'$, wherein R' is an alkyl,
- Z is the group of formula:

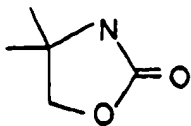


Applicant elects styrene ($a=0$, Y=hydrogen, and Y'=phenyl) as species of ethylenically unsaturated monomer of formula $\text{CYY}'(=\text{CW}-\text{CW}')_a=\text{CH}_2$.

Applicant elects ethyl acrylate ($b=0$, X=hydrogen, and X'= $-\text{COOEt}$) as species of ethylenically unsaturated monomer of formula $\text{CXX}'(=\text{CV}-\text{CV}')_b=\text{CH}_2$ the precursor of formula (IIA) comes from.

Applicant elects the compound of general formula (IIIA), as species of compound for making the precursor of formula (IIA), wherein:

- R¹ is the group of formula $-\text{CH}(\text{COOEt})_2$, which is an alkyl group (i) substituted with groups of formula $-\text{COOR}$, wherein R is an alkyl, and
- Z is the group of formula:



Claims 29, 30, 32, 34, 35, 38, 43-45, and 48-52 are generic and readable on that species.

In view of the preceding remarks, it is asserted that the patent application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any question concerning these remarks that would further advance prosecution of the claims to allowance, the examiner is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned Attorney at (609) 860-4192.

A notice of allowance is respectfully solicited.

October 25, 2001

RHODIA INC.
259 Prospect Plains Road
CN7500,
Cranbury, NJ 08512

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

John Daniel WOOD
Registration No. 31,146
Tel : (609) 860-4192
Fax: (609) 860-0503